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Mr. H. L. Finch, Manager
Republic Crosscutting Co.
7200 Walker Street
St. Louis Park, Minnesota

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3340 REPUBLIC AVENUE
ST. LOUIS PARK, MINNESOTA 55426

March 2, 1971

CC Mr. J. Ryan
Mr. P. C. Reilly
Mr. R. J. Boyle
Miss L. H. Boyer

Dear Herb:

This will acknowledge your letter of February 23rd relative to the decision to close your St. Louis Park operations. Needless to say, this comes as quite a shock to us.

Your verbal request that no general announcement be made on this matter until released by your home office to your employees, will be respected. However, I hope this will be forthcoming in the near future because "secrets" of this importance are most difficult to contain. Our company needs lots of time and the combined talents and council of our working force to properly plan our future action at the St. Louis Park location. This can't be done effectively on a secretive basis.

Aside from the severe potential loss of business and profits through your rapid timetable for closing, we have some concern over the future utilization of the buildings and area stabilization which have been undertaken at our expense in the expectation of many future years of operations. In your final planning, we ask you to give some consideration to this.

Our present order file and firm quotations outstanding are such that we will require at least 18 months advance public notice of a shut down at your treating plant. This is at least 2 months longer than the time mentioned in your letter to me. I hope this can be extended. As you know, our treated timber business is quite complex, involving governmental approval of design plans, advanced time notification of public bids on the construction projects, additional lead time for the securing of the special timbers from the West Coast and the framing of these materials prior to treatment. It is not uncommon for this total processing to take 18 months. This is a very important matter to us and we ask that you plan accordingly in your final program.

Please be assured, Herb, that we are sympathetic to your company's position in this closing matter. We know you have been unduly harrassed and persecuted by the officials of the City of St. Louis Park. It has been a very bad situation. We would be less than honest to say that we are completely surprised by your decision to close down. However, in our past discussions with you, we were expecting at least 3 years advance notification. That would be much more realistic for our required planning and implementation of necessary action to preserve our treated timber bridge business.

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Prices quoted are based on freight rates now in effect, any increase, or decrease, at time of shipment for purchaser's account. Prices do not include sales or use taxes which, when applicable, are for purchaser's account. Contracts are made, and delivery dates specified, subject to strikes and other causes beyond our direct control.

WHEELER LUMBER BRIDGE AND SUPPLY CO.

Mr. H. L. Finch
Republic Creosoting Co.

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We trust you will continue to encourage your home office people to make a prompt public announcement on this. Until that time, there's not really much we can do.

Yours very truly,

WHEELER DIVISION - ST. REGIS PAPER COMPANY

T. C. Hoak
T. C. Hoak
Regional Manager

TCH/dh

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